

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1105

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 3515

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, IR

SUBJ: EMPRESS CHIDES IRANIAN INTELLECTUALS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. IN ADDRESS TO GROUP OF INTELLECTUALS FROM TEHRAN UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR NAHAVANDI'S SHAH-PEOPLE REVOLUTION STUDY GROUP ON APRIL 9, EMPRESS FARAH STRESSED THAT IRANIAN INTELLIGENTSIA MUST PLAY VITAL ROLE IN EDUCATING COUNTRY'S MASSES POLITICALLY, SOCIALLY AND CULTURALLY. SHE COMPLIMENTED STUDY GROUP FOR HELPING PAVE WAY FOR CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM OF NATIONAL AFFAIRS AND LIKENED IT TO CREATION OF IRANIAN NATIONAL RESURGENCE PARTY (INRP) IN THIS REGARD. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, SHE CRITICIZED IRANIAN INTELLECTUALS FOR INDIFFERENCE AND ALOOF STANCE WHICH THEY HAVE IN PAST TAKEN TOWARD RESOLUTION OF NATION'S PROBLEMS. STRESSING NEED FOR INTRODUCTION OF PROPER DISCIPLINE IN IRANIAN SOCIETY, SHE POINTED OUT THAT INRP NOW PROVIDES EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTICIPATION OF ALL IRANIANS IN NATIONAL POLITICAL LIFE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: THIS STATEMENT CONSTITUTES SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL FORAY FOR EMPRESS. SHE ENJOYS RESPECT OF AND GOOD CONTACT WITH IRANIAN INTELLECTUALS WHO FEEL THAT THE REGIME HAS VIEWED THEM WITH INCREASED SUSPICION SINCE 1973 ANTI-SHAH PLOT BY TWELVE INTELLECTUALS AND JOURNALISTS. DESPITE INTELLECTUALS' UNENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION OF NEW IRANIAN NATIONAL RESURGENCE PARTY, EMPRESS WAS IDEAL INSTRUMENT TO IMPRESS UPON THEM THAT UNDER NEW ONE-PARTY SYSTEM THEY WILL BE EXPECTED TO
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ABANDON THEIR UNCOMMITTED STANCE AND THE POLICY OF MANY INTELLECTUALS OF SAFE OPPOSITION TO THE REGIME THROUGH LIMITED

PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL AFFIARS. INSTEAD, ALL MUST TAKE AN
ACTIVE PART THROUGH THE IRANIAN NATIONAL RESURGENCE PARTY. IN
FACT NUMBERS OF PREVIOUSLY UNCOMMITTED INTELLECTURALS HAVE
ALREADY JOINED THE PARTY AND SOME ARE FOUND IN RESPONSIBLE
ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS.
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